

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-2. (Cancelled)

3. (New) A method for fabricating a supporting assembly for a lock and actuating assembly of a motor vehicle, the lock comprising a plurality of mobile members hinged to corresponding lock pins, the actuating assembly having a plurality of actuating members hinged to an actuating pin for operating the lock, and the supporting assembly comprising a shell made of plastic material defining a housing for at least one of the mobile members of the lock and a first metal plate supporting the lock pins; the method comprising the steps of:

placing the first metal plate into a mold die;

inserting the actuating pin into the mold die separate and spaced from the first metal plate;

molding the shell to the first metal plate in the mold die and around the actuating pin to englobe the actuating pin in the shell; and

simultaneously forming a seal gasket around the peripheral edge of the shell while molding the shell in the mold die.

4. (New) The method as set forth in claim 3 further including the steps of removing the first metal plate and co-molded shell from the mold die, assembling the mobile members to the lock pins and the actuating members to the actuating pin housed within the shell, and placing a second metal plate against the seal gasket to close the housing formed by the shell between the first and second metal plates.